



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY280793
Inspection date	23 January 2006
Inspector	Sandra Wickham

Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Childminding

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 2004. She lives with her adult daughter and teenage son in Walthamstow, in the London borough of Waltham Forest. The children have access to the ground floor lounge and hallway and first floor toilet and bathroom. The fully enclosed garden is used for outdoor play. The childminder holds an NVQ level 3 and N.N.E.B qualification.

The childminder currently has 4 children on roll, 2 of pre-school age and 2 attending full time school.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health needs are being promoted as the childminder meets all regulations with regard to maintaining accident and medication records. As the childminder meets parental wishes, the children are generally well nourished. Children's independence skills are being fully promoted through the childminder's encouragement. They take part in pouring out their own refreshments, selecting their own food at mealtimes. This is an opportunity to encourage children to enjoy food and make healthy choices.

The childminder takes children to local parks, giving them regular access to physical play opportunities, both indoors and outdoors. Their individual rest needs are met and they are able to rest safely and comfortably in the childminder's care. Children can expect to be responded to appropriately in the event of an accident or emergency as the childminder holds a current first aid certificate. She also has a good range of first aid supplies on the premises that are easily accessible and has appropriate emergency contingency plans in place. The childminder has agreed to develop her practice with information from Birth to three matters guidance.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are able to move around safely, freely and independently. They are able to self select activities and resources from a wide range of toys, all of which meet safety standards. Children are becoming aware of how to keep themselves safe as the childminder talks to children about road safety, and not talking to strangers. They also discuss the emergency evacuation procedures. Children are secure and confident in the environment as the childminder takes steps to reduce their access to hazards on the premises. For example, smoke alarms are fitted throughout the home. The childminder has a secure understanding of child protection procedures, having undertaken training and assessments on this topic. Children are protected by her knowledge of possible signs and symptoms of abuse or neglect and the childminder is aware of the relevant procedures to follow.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are well settled at the childminders house and make themselves at home. They are very independent as they select their own activities from the various range of toys and resources accessible. For instance, when playing with construction toys or doing a drawing. The childminder knows the children well. She makes sure the resources provide children with sufficient challenge to stimulate their creative needs. Children are encouraged to learn words and meaning by the childminder's effective interaction in response to rhymes and games. The children spend their time

purposefully. They enjoy exploring and investigating the many varied toys and resources which contribute to their creativity and stage of development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Through the meaningful range of resources and activities, children learn about cultural, racial, gender and disability diversity. Children become aware of their differing backgrounds and learn to value and respect these differences. They are pleased when they receive praise from the childminder after they select their own resources. This enhances their self esteem and encourages them to try new challenges and make progress. Good partnerships with parents ensure children are consistently cared for, both at home and when with the childminder. Children behave very well with the childminder. They feel settled and comfortable, having time to relax as well as be active according to their needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy and at ease in the well-organised environment. Space and resources are presented in such a way to enable children to confidently initiate and extend their own play and learning. They can participate in a variety of activities which are easily accessible. The childminder is extending her own learning on caring for children and is developing her practice to promote their welfare. The childminder ensures daily dialogue is exchanged with parents regarding children's care. This all contributes to the children's continuity of care.

Although satisfactory systems are in place to ensure the organisation of all children's records are in place, some necessary information is not being fully maintained. This compromises children's safety. There have also been some changes that could impact on the childminder's registration that Ofsted has not been informed of. Overall, most of the systems in place ensure that children are healthy and safe, enabling them to make progress in all areas of their development. The setting is meeting the needs of all the children for whom it provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last registration.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made be parents, which they can see on request. The complaints may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- develop systems to ensure all children's detail is maintained and their arrival and departure times are recorded.
- improve systems for keeping Ofsted informed of all changes effecting registration.

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